

Join us on the second Thursday of every month for a series of "brown bag" seminars sponsored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy. Each seminar is held at NREL's Washington offices with a video-conference link to Golden, Colorado. Topics focus on new and innovative renewable energy and energy analysis strategies, models, and technologies.



Energy Analysis Seminar Series

A "brown bag" analytical seminar series

The Near-Impossible Challenge Facing Local Distribution Companies, Power Generators, and State Regulators in the Next 4,800 Hours

Andy Weissman, Chairman
Energy Ventures Group
Thursday, April 10, 2003
Noon–1 p.m.

The winter weather has had a huge impact on the price, storage capabilities, and winter demand for natural gas. Andy Weissman will discuss the underlying causes of the severe dislocations that occurred in the natural gas market this past winter, in which record amounts of natural gas were withdrawn from underground storage. Because of this, natural gas prices briefly reached all-time highs in the producing region, as well as many delivery points in the eastern United States. He also will discuss early indications of a deeper, more long-lasting structural deficit, in which supplies of natural gas available to the U.S. market may fall well below currently projected needs for a period of up to five–seven years.

Weissman will focus specifically on the nearly impossible challenge that local distribution companies and shippers are likely to face in attempting to rebuild the amount of natural gas in underground storage—and the task of reaching adequate levels prior to the start of the next withdrawal season in late October. He also will discuss the potential for a second, and even more severe, run-up in natural gas prices beginning this summer and continuing throughout much of the remainder of the year. Weissman will examine the potential implications of higher natural gas prices for power markets, spark spreads, and the merchant-generation sector.

Andy Weissman is chairman of Energy Ventures Group, based in Washington, D.C. A well-known expert on the energy industry, Weissman has more than 28 years experience advising many of the premier investment firms and largest energy companies in the United States. He is familiar with issues pertaining to power supply planning, fuel selection, federal and state regulatory initiatives, and industry restructuring. In addition to providing advisory services, Energy Ventures Group—which Andy founded four years ago—manages a Hedge Fund based in San Francisco, California. The group has been a leader in bringing innovative new technologies to the power industry, helping to launch companies now backed by some of the largest players in the industry. He has presented more than 75 programs on major energy issues at locations throughout the United States.



Andy Weissman

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